

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 277 without my signature.

While I strongly support efforts to improve the safety, permanency and well-being of children in California's Child Welfare Services system, I can not support this bill as it would increase costs at a time of continuing budget challenges. Further, this bill would establish a one size fits all approach and focus on only one component of foster parent preparation and evaluation. Counties already provide foster parent training beyond what is required by the State and do so in a manner that reflects local priorities and needs.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger